

From: CMS MMAHelp [MMAHelp@cms.hhs.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, May 24, 2006 7:57 PM
To: CMS MMAHelp
Subject: Payment Withhold TRR - Information

CMS is working to identify and address payment withhold synchronization issues for beneficiaries enrolled in Part D Plans and electing the SSA Withhold option. On Monday, May 15th, CMS generated three special TRRs, two of which were to address specific conditions relative to beneficiary payment withhold status. The intent of this memo is to further clarify the information contained in those two TRRs.

The first TRR, identified as YM0605A.D15.TRWEEKD, contained records for beneficiaries where there was some discrepancy between the SSA withhold and the CMS payment information. The special TRR put the beneficiaries back to 'Direct Bill' if there was a discrepancy in any month from January to April.

At this time, CMS is advising Plans to disregard this TRR. This file will be recreated with improved criteria such as filtering out the beneficiaries that, as of April, were in a payment withhold status and plans were seeing this info on the MPWR file.

The second TRR, identified as YM0605B.D15.TRWEEKD, affected a smaller subset of beneficiaries that represented new retro enrollments which had not yet been successfully confirmed to be in a withhold status and could potentially result in payment withholds of more than three months. Given the age of these transactions and the impact to the beneficiary of withholding 4 or more months of premiums, these were changed to Direct Bill. This TRR was not intended to address the entire population of beneficiaries with withholds greater than 3 months, only new retro enrollments. Plans should work with the beneficiaries from this TRR to set up a premium payment schedule.

CMS is currently working on creating a baseline of payment withhold status per beneficiary which will be communicated to Plans in the near future.

Please direct questions and concerns to the MMA Help Desk at 1-800-927-8069 or email at mmahelp@cms.hhs.gov.

Thank You,
MMA Help Desk
1-800-927-8069

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